

M E M O I R S

O F

M^R. W I L S O N:

O R, T H E

PROVIDENTIAL ADULTERY.

I N T W O V O L U M E S.

V O L. II.

L O N D O N,

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M D C C L X X I.

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M. W. I. S. O. N.

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CONFIDENTIAL



THE TWO VOLUMES

V. O. L. II

THE TWO VOLUMES
OF THE
HISTORY OF THE
UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA
FROM 1776 TO 1876
BY
J. W. F. D. M. O. I. R. S.

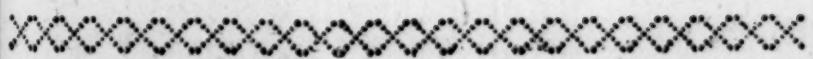


M E M O I R S

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M^R. W I L S O N.

V O L. II.



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M E M O I R S

OF

M R W I L S O N

V O L II

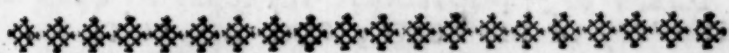
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MEMOIRS

OF

MR. WILSON.



SO quick a transition, from the afflu-
ence of successful villainy to the
extremest degree of indigence, had so far
stupified Volpone, that he mistook his
morbid state of calmness for a philoso-

VOL. II.

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phic fortitude: but the return of reflection undeceived him, and presented to his view all the horrors of his situation in the most terrifying light.

He considered, that it was hardly possible for any body in that country to know that he was a deservedly-punished sinner, and therefore thought it expedient to pass for an unfortunate saint; for the simplicity of his features belied the knavery of his heart; and his voice was so flexible, that he could with ease modulate it to an expression suitable to whatever external disguise he chose to assume: therefore, as he was reduced to a state of nature, he determined to avail himself of the talents nature had bestowed on him; in

in order to which, he placed himself on the road side, with design to excite the compassion of those who might pass by.

The first who happened to come that way was a dignified clergyman, who resided in those parts: Volpone was greatly revived on beholding the secular habit; for he imagined a son of the church would be glad of such an opportunity to make a parade of Christian benevolence; not that he thought the clergy in reality more charitable than their neighbours, but hoped, though goodness of heart and compassion were wanting, that policy would prompt the person he saw to assist him, through the affectation of pos-

possessing a virtue to which he was a stranger.

When he was near enough, Volpone excited his attention by the most piteous complaints. The Bishop stopped, and enquired minutely into the circumstances of his case. Volpone gratified his curiosity, in a most pathetic recital of his misfortune. When he had finished his narrative, the Bishop very gravely spurred his horse, and rode away, without giving him any thing, except this consolatory sentence: "Providence, my friend, is always bountiful to its votaries; put your trust in Providence, and you cannot fail of finding speedy relief."

He had scarce ended this humane sentence, when a neighbouring Justice of the Peace approached, whose curiosity Volpone excited in the same manner as he had the Bishop's. With the Justice he underwent a thorough examination; for he asked him as many questions as if he had been in his official chair. When he was satisfied in every particular, he rode away as the Bishop had done, giving him nothing but a promise to have an immediate pursuit made after the robbers.

In fine, he alternately acquainted a lawyer, an exciseman, and several farmers, with his case; not one of whom gave him a single farthing.

The lawyer told him, "the statutes
"relative to robberies were very de-
"fective."

The exciseman said, "it was no af-
"fair of his."

And the farmers complained, "that
"rents were so high, and taxes so many,
"that they were scarce able to support
"their own families."

Thus each had an excuse in his head,
for the badness of his heart.

It so happened, that on the very day of Volpone's tribulation, the officers of the parish in which the robbery was committed designed to *eat a child*; that is, a young fellow had been compelled to pay ten pounds to the parish, for the support of a child which had been sworn to him, though in reality its father was one of the churchwardens. One half of this money was appropriated to feasting; which feast, in the phrase of parish officers, is termed *eating a child*. A country fellow, who was devouring Volpone's story with open mouth, no sooner perceived these gentry, than he acquainted him who they were: he was heartily glad of it, as he imagined their offices obliged them to take care of him. He

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told them his tale, with all the exaggerations which might the more effectually awaken humanity, and excite compassion: they heard him with tolerable patience, considering dinner waited for them.

When he had done, one of the overseers told him, in the name of himself and brother-officers, "that he believed
" him to be no better than an impostor;
" and promised, if they found him in the
" same place on their return, he should
" be whipped from town to town, till
" he came to his own parish."

This treatment induced him to think all mankind as wicked and hard-hearted as himself; and, by a fallacious method
of

of arguing, he found comfort for his own conscience in the culpability of others; never reflecting, that the numerous subjects of vice and self-love do not render moral rectitude or the social virtues the less indispensable, any more than the frequency of rebellion could take from the merit of loyalty.

At length he was relieved by a Jew, who acted in a two-fold capacity at Dover; that is, he killed and prepared meat for the Israelites of that place two days in the week, and the other four he employed in teaching Hebrew. This Jew supplied him with apparel, took him home to his own house, and made him as welcome as his circumstances

10 MEMOIRS OF

would afford. But the parish officers, being informed of the affair, were ashamed to be outdone in the offices of Christianity by an Infidel: they therefore determined that the honest son of Levi should be disappointed in the benevolence of his intentions, and accordingly sent him orders immediately to turn Volpone out of doors; alledging, that, by assisting a vagabond, he would reduce himself to poverty, and then both would become chargeable to the parish. The Jew was too well assured of the power of those who thought proper to command him, to disobey; he therefore, in obedience to the mandate, discharged Volpone, giving him a crown at parting.

He

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He

He took the road to Canterbury, and on the way resolved to retrieve his losses, if possible, by making war upon mankind: he called at a public house, and prepared himself accordingly to put his design in execution in the most artful manner.

Within half a mile of Canterbury, he saw an elderly gentleman walking slowly through some fields on his right hand: he took a circle round the hedges, in order to meet him. As soon as he came near enough, he pulled off his hat in a most respectful manner, and presenting a piece of paper to him, begged he would do him the favour to read it. On examining

mining the paper, the gentleman read these words, wrote in a very large character, and legible manner :

“ If you do not immediately deliver
“ your money, without uttering a
“ syllable, you will in a moment be
“ shot through the head.”

The gentleman, dreading the concluding menace, delivered his purse, without offering to open his lips ; when Volpone took his leave, with another respectful bow, and made the best of his way to Canterbury.

On opening the purse, he found it contained twenty-seven guineas. Flushed
with

with the success of this enterprize, he determined not to leave England, but to disguise himself, and continue to levy contributions by means similar to that which had proved so prosperous.

Not caring to stay in Canterbury, he proceeded with all possible expedition to Sittingbourne, where he purchased a horse and a disguise. He now only wanted pistols, to be compleatly equipped for his new occupation; but these he did not care to attempt buying at so inconsiderable a place, lest it might create suspicions: he therefore determined to make the best of his way to Rochester, where such a purchase would occasion no surmises to his disadvantage. He had not proceeded above a quarter of a mile from Sittingbourne,

bourne, before he was stopped by three custom-house officers, who produced their deputations, and insisted upon his going to the next inn, while they examined his saddle, which, they said, contained a great quantity of French lace, as they had reason to believe from an information laid against a person to whose description he exactly answered.

He found it in vain to resist, and therefore suffered them to lead his horse into the yard of an inn, which happened to be at hand. While they were ripping open his saddle, in pursuance of the information, the very gentleman he had robbed near Canterbury came into the yard, attended

tended by two servants well armed. He had observed the features of Volpone's face and the size and make of his person so attentively, that he recognized him through his artful disguise: and immediately giving orders privately to his servants, they secured him the moment the officers of the customs had declared he could not be the person they were looking for, though his horse and appearance bore the greatest resemblance to their descriptive information. This was fact; for Volpone had bought the very horse and cloaths of the smuggler who was described in the information, and who had wisely parted with them, to avoid what would otherwise in all probability have been his lot.

Volpone

Volpone was taken before a justice of the peace, and, upon the positive oath of the gentleman, committed to Maidstone gaol, in order to take his trial at the ensuing assizes.

When the day arrived on which he was to hold up his hand at the bar, he appeared with an undaunted countenance, and pleaded *Not guilty* to the indictment.

The gentleman positively swore, that he was the identical person who had robbed him; when Volpone, being called upon to make his defence, spoke to the following purport:

“ My

“ My Lord, and Gentlemen of the
“ Jury,

“ I here stand indicted for a crime, of
“ which my whole conduct through life
“ would prove me incapable. I wish
“ your Lordship could but know in
“ what an inoffensive manner I have hi-
“ therto lived: my irreproachable beha-
“ viour, I am convinced, would leave no
“ manner of doubt in your Lordship’s
“ mind of my innocence in this affair.
“ I am a native of France; but, having
“ been several years in the service of an
“ English family, I speak English like a
“ native of this country, though I am
“ unable either to read or write the lan-
“ guage.

“ guage. I lately came from France, and
“ stayed a few days in Canterbury: one
“ evening, as I was walking in the fields
“ near that city, I picked up a piece of
“ paper, folded like a letter, but not
“ sealed: there was some writing on the
“ inside, and curiosity made me desirous
“ of knowing its meaning. I soon after
“ saw my prosecutor approach me, and
“ entreated him, in a respectful manner,
“ to let me know the contents of the pa-
“ per. He took it, and perused it with
“ great emotion: then, putting it into
“ his pocket, he gave me a purse, and
“ walked away before my surprize would
“ permit me to desire an explanation of
“ the affair. I went back to Canter-
“ bury, and informed a countryman of
“ mine,

“ mine, who is at present in France, of
“ the accident ; but his absence prevents
“ my having the benefit of his evidence
“ in my favour. We agreed, that the
“ gentleman’s behaviour was particular;
“ but concluded, that it must have been
“ a bank-note, or a paper of some considerable value, which I had found; but
“ the gentleman, taking advantage of my
“ ignorance as to its contents, had given
“ me his purse for what was of much
“ greater value, and left me before I
“ could form any probable conjecture of
“ his reasons for proceeding in that manner. I imagine, when he afterwards
“ saw me at the place where I was seized,
“ he dreaded my knowing him again,
“ and might justly think that I must
“ suspect he had some particular reason
“ for

“ for giving a stranger seven-and-twenty
“ guineas for a piece of paper; and there-
“ fore suppose he thought proper to cry
“ thief first, and now has sworn a rob-
“ bery against an innocent person, when
“ it is very probable that he himself de-
“ serves to be tried for a defraud. My
“ case is so very plain, and the malice of
“ my prosecutor so palpable, that I think
“ the Gentlemen of the Jury can have no
“ great difficulty in finding a verdict in
“ my favour : besides, depending entirely
“ on my innocence, and to give the
“ court as little trouble as possible, I
“ have waved the privilege of having one
“ half of the jury composed of my own
“ countrymen. So I rest myself on the
“ justice of my cause, and the candour
“ of

“of you, my Lord, and the Gentlemen of
“the Jury.”

As Volpone had not demanded the gentleman's money, or, indeed, stopped him, any farther than by civilly requesting a harmless favour, and it being impossible for the court to prove he could write, he was acquitted.

He was transported with joy to have come off with flying colours; but his narrow escape gave him a kind of disrelish to adventures so very hazardous, and so nearly allied to mortality.

After his acquittal, he proceeded to London; and, taking a mean lodging in an obscure place, resolved to live as *near*

as

as possible, till he could hit upon some feasible scheme to drive melancholy from his mind, by replenishing his pockets.

CASTING his eye one day over a newspaper, his attention was engaged by an advertisement, which ran in these words:

ADVERTISEMENT.

TO BACHELORS.

“ A maiden lady, of about thirty years
 “ of age, possessed of a genteel income,
 “ and a person which has frequently
 “ been thought agreeable, would willingly
 “ meet with an eligible companion for
 “ life. Any single gentleman, whose age
 “ does

“does not exceed twenty-five, and who
“has sense enough to prefer the prudence
“of maturity to the levity of the teens,
“will be farther informed of particulars,
“by enquiring for T. T. at Mrs. Frail’s,
“milliner, in Tavistock-street, Covent-
“Garden, any time to-morrow; the ad-
“vertiser having some cogent reasons
“for being precipitate.

“N. B. She has but two faults; mo-
“desty, and good-nature.”

Although Volpone well knew that several young sparks, who think proper to call themselves Bucks, Bloods, and Choice Spirits, frequently employ their time in drawing up such advertisements, and think it a piece of wit to fool away their
money

money and time, in order to have the pleasure of laughing at those who are silly enough to write; yet he had been certified, that many such-advertisements were in reality intended for the purposes they expressed: he therefore determined to enquire farther about the present, as he was well assured a disappointment would cost him neither money nor vexation.

He went accordingly to Mrs. Frail's the next day, who, after minutely surveying him, conducted him into a parlour; and, very politely desiring him to sit down, informed him *the party* would wait upon him in a very short time.

The

The affability of Mrs. Frail's behaviour appeared as a good omen to Volpone, and seemed to presage success to his expectations. His imagination took the alarm; and he began to figure to himself a graceful female, the glow of whose beauty was rendered deliciously attracting by ripeness, the vivacity of whose features was softened by good-nature, and varied by the crimson effusions of modesty.

These ideas were too sensitive not to make his head swim: but the mental retrospect of affluence quite intoxicated him. He was disturbed in the midst of his pleasing reveries, by the entrance of

Mrs. Frail, who very formally introduced Miss Sobfast, the advertizing lady; of whom it may not be improper to give a description, by which it will be found that Volpone was rather too sanguine in the draught of his mental landscape.

This lady had embellished rather too much in her advertisement: for her fortune was much less than the term *genteel income* might seem to imply, as it was but barely fourscore pounds *per annum*. As to her person, she spoke an absolute fact; for it had always been thought agreeable by herself, and three of her acquaintances that happened to be stone-blind, who formed their opinions upon her own account of it: but, as those who had the
perfect

perfect use of their opties were of a different way of thinking, it will be but justice to recite their sentiments also.

Miss Sobfast having a great deal of wisdom, and a great deal of tongue, it was proper she should have large warehouses to deposit them; the capaciousness of her head and mouth were therefore truly admirable: but, as she never gave any one leave to talk, or herself time to smell any thing, it is easy to be imagined she could have no occasion for a pair of ears or a nose; accordingly nature had been kind, by not troubling her with a nose, and making her deaf. As to her eyes, each watched the side to which it appertained, but never lost any time idly

in looking at each other. Her breasts very kindly formed a pillow for her chin, and her waist seemed to defy all the world to say, she was like Pharaoh's lean kine. By her legs, you might have thought her infinitely rich; for they seemed to owe their magnitude to a constitutional gout: and her feet were no discredit to the worthy members they supported.

As I have described her person, you may perhaps think I ought in justice to describe her mind. I'll assure you, I should be willing to compleat her portraiture; but it is utterly impossible for me to know till this time what she herself never knew ten minutes together: however,

ever, on this you may depend, that she never deviated into a just way of thinking.

Such was Miss Sobfast; who was wonderfully pleased with Volpone, which she signified to her friend Mrs. Frail. This intelligent lady soon let him understand, that it would be unnecessary to enter into conversation with a lady, who was so very much troubled with deafness as to be unable to comprehend him; but, if he thought well of the lady, she was authorized to settle the preliminaries for a match.

Though Miss Sobfast's figure was very disgusting, poverty appeared to Volpone with a more terrifying aspect; and he

wisely reflected, that fourscore pounds a year was a competency at least: the alternative was, to starve or marry; he therefore judiciously chose the latter, as he had no great inclination to experience the former; and the nuptial ceremony was soon after celebrated.

At the expiration of two months after the marriage, Mrs. Volpone was delivered of a boy, who was the secret cause of that precipitancy which she mentioned in her advertisement.

The child died in six months after its birth; and Volpone broke the mother's heart

heart twelve months after the death of the child.

Upon the small fortune she left him he subsisted, till Mr. Wilson unfortunately employed him to educate that son whom he has made it his study to ruin."

THE gentleman here concluded his narrative; and the whole company joined in expressing their detestation of a villain, who dedicated his talents to the destruction and annoyance of mankind, and was a living disgrace to the human species.

After Mr. Wilson had taken leave of his friends, he embarked on board the Achilles, in the River Thames, and set sail with a fair wind (and in as good spirits as the thoughts of Volpone's villainy would permit) on his intended voyage.

MR.

MR. WILSON'S VOYAGES,

AND
FOREIGN ADVENTURES.

THEY met with nothing particular till they came within sixteen leagues of the Island of Jamaica, when they were attacked by a violent storm, which compelled them to lay to under a

forefail for the space of sixteen hours. A prodigious shower of rain succeeded, attended with terrible claps of thunder, sufficient to dismay the most experienced mariner, but to the last degree dreadful to Mr. Wilson, who was entirely unacquainted with that tremendous element, which now appeared to him in all its horrors. The successive flashes of lightning, which seemed to blaze through the whole expanse of the heavens, threatened their sails with momentary destruction; while laying so many hours under a forefail occasioned the ship to make more water than she could get rid of by the incessant working of both her pumps, and the unwearied labour of all who could be spared from the sails.

What scene could appear more terrible to the imagination ! No prospect of land ! the roaring of the thunder, the gleaming of the lightning, the increasing of the water, and the anguish and horror visible in every face ! We cannot possibly obtain a more awful idea of the power of the Almighty, nor be more truly taught to estimate our own weakness and insignificance, than by being witnesses to the horrors of a storm.

They strove to make the Island of Jamaica, but their endeavours were in vain ; for the water gained upon them so fast, that they put out the yawl, when so many

crowded to get into her, that she sunk in a few minutes, and they were all drowned who had so rashly attempted their preservation.

There still remained in the ship eight persons, among whom were the Captain and Mr. Wilson, who committed themselves to the mercy of the waves in a small boat, with provisions only for three days, which was all the time permitted them to take; for they had not rowed above sixty yards from the ship before she sunk.

The

The storm continued, though not with the same violence; and they patiently waited for that dissolution which was thought inevitable. They rowed incessantly the same night and the day following, and their continual labour compelled them to consume more of their water than they would willingly have done, when a wave, breaking under the stern of the boat, gave it such a sudden tilt, that the jar which contained their water was overturned, and every drop of it spilt. They were almost petrified with horror and amazement on beholding this accident, and felt all the pangs of thirst by anticipation. They sat looking at each other, silent and dismayed, and
seemed

seemed to slacken of their labour, as if by mutual consent.

On the third day, they severely experienced what they had so much dreaded in apprehension, the excruciating cravings of thirst. When they attempted to eat a piece of biscuit, it crumbled in their mouths, and they were unable to swallow it for want of moisture. Death stared them in the face, and despair rendered his appearance doubly terrible. On the morning of the fourth day, they, to their infinite joy, discovered land; but two of the men died before they arrived at it, through an immoderate exertion of their strength to gain it.

They

They drew their boat upon the beach, and moistened their mouths by eating some weeds which grew upon the shore, which proved a pleasant refreshment. They then began to search for fresh water; but, to their great disappointment, could meet with none: they indeed found several small pools and puddles; but the water was so brackish, that it was impossible to drink it.

They saw it would but prolong their misery to remain on this desolate place, which, from a very high rock, they perceived to be a small island; they therefore embarked, though reluctantly, after
loading

loading the boat with a large quantity of those weeds which had so opportunely allayed their thirst. They rowed all night alternately, steering their course for the Bay of Honduras as well as they possibly could; for they had no instruments with them, and judged it impossible to gain Jamaica, as the wind blew contrary.

The day following they discovered a sail; those in the ship likewise perceived them, and they were soon after taken on board. They were scarce able, thro' the weakness of their frames, to support the extatic joy with which they were inspired by so providential and unexpected a delivery from the jaws of death. This
ship

ship proved to be the Fortune man of war, commanded by Captain Gayton, who was proceeding to the South Seas on some important discoveries.

Captain Gayton was a most excellent mariner, and possessed an undaunted courage, with an expanded benevolence of heart; so that in his composition were admirably blended the ferocity of the lion and the meekness of the lamb. He might with propriety be termed *whimsically worthy*; for, with the rough generosity of the sailor, he would do actions which those who possessed the most elegantly-refined friendship might be proud to imitate; and, in the dialect peculiar to the tempestuous element, would soothe
the

the anguish of the unfortunate more effectually than the most accomplished courtier with the flowery diction of laboured consolation; for what appeared fashionable art in others seemed in him to be what it really was, the spontaneous dictates of a benevolent soul.

Add to the above character, that the Captain was agreeable, though not handsome, about thirty years of age, and a bachelor.

He had with him on board two young gentlemen, who were both extremely beautiful, but apparently melancholy, and seemingly very fond of each other.

The

The name of him who appeared to be the eldest, was Smith; that of the youngest, Wood.

As soon as Mr. Wilton and his companions came on board, the Captain ordered them all possible attendance. The commander of the Achilles and Mr. Wilton had very luckily, during the storm, secured every thing about them which was valuable, and could lay in a small compass: they would fain have purchased some linen, for a change of which they stood in great need; but Captain Gayton generously supplied them *gratis*.

In

In a few days they were thoroughly recovered; when Captain Gayton told them, with a smile, "that he expected
"an account of their misfortune; for
"this reason, that there is always a pleasure found in speaking of any imminent danger which we have escaped."

They satisfied him in every particular; when he ordered the four private men to be entered on the ship's books, as part of the crew; and assured the Captain and Mr. Wilson, in the most cordial manner, that they were very welcome to return with him to England after he had
executed

executed his commission; or he would land them in any place that he should be obliged to touch at, according to their own choice.

They thanked him politely for his kindness, and congratulated themselves on the quick transition which had changed the pangs of despair to the smiles of hope.

It will be immaterial to mention in this work the particulars of their voyage, any farther than what relates to Mr. Wilson; or to give an account of the discoveries they designed to make, or a narrative of those they did make, but as far as they respect

respect King George's Island, which of late has been falsely supposed to be a more recent discovery, but was in reality first known to the people of the Fortune man of war, commanded by Captain Gayton, though it was not at that time thought sufficiently important to engage ministerial attention *.

* Though the names of the ship and commander are fictitious, the fact is real ; and the Author has the most material papers relative to the said voyage ; which papers incontestably evince, that Captain W. in the D— was not the first discoverer of the place he took the liberty to christen.

A CARD OF INTIMATION from the
AUTHOR to the CRITICS.

“ THE Author of *The Memoirs of*
“ *Mr. Wilson, or, The Providential*
“ *Adultery*, presents his compli-
“ ments to Messieurs the Critics,
“ who profess infidelity ; and begs
“ them not to condemn this part
“ of his work as fabulous ; for he
“ can, if properly called upon,
“ prove his assertions.”

I shall

I shall give a small description of this place, which, in some particulars, agrees with the more recent accounts.

King George's Island is situated between the Tropics, in the Pacific Ocean, and in about the seventeenth degree of northern latitude: in circumference it is about one hundred and fifty miles.

The inhabitants are of a copper colour, and not so amazingly large as reported, the tallest not exceeding six feet: their aspect is pleasant, and their dress only a piece of linen; which linen they make in the following extraordinary manner.

They

They take the bark of a particular tree, which they dip in the sea at three spring-tides, and as often dry it in the sun, which is the superstitious part of the manufacturing: they then rub it with infinite labour between two stones, till it becomes of a durable texture; and, after praying over it for three days in a manner most fervently ridiculous, they deem it fit for wear, and bind it round their middles accordingly.

The earth produces a great quantity of herbage, fruit, and flowers, spontaneously; some resembling what is familiar to us, and some unknown to this part of the world. They have a great many

small horses, who seem to want the sagacity of those of Europe: they have many different sorts of cattle, and hogs in abundance, which is their most common food.

They are expert fishermen, making hooks from shells resembling mother-of-pearl, and lines with some strong weeds and the bark of trees.

Their huts consist of two stories; the lower for their cattle and swine, and the upper for themselves.

In order to dress their victuals, they make a large fire round a smooth flat stone,

stone, on which they place their food; and when it is about half done, eat it voraciously, frequently burning their fingers through eagerness.

They make a disagreeable kind of musick with the horn of a creature resembling a cow, and dance in a manner perfectly frantic. He who can make the loudest noise, is accounted the best musician; and if it were possible for a Georgonian to break the drum of his friend's ear, he would be idolized as the Handel of the island.

Here is an excellent harbour, which, with a trifling expence, might be ren-

dered serviceable to England, and formidable to Spain, in case of any future war.

The Georgonians are great hypocrites and great thieves; for, in order to make a parade of their good-nature and generosity, they will make a present of any of their property to an acquaintance; which they will be sure to take an opportunity privately to steal from him again.

They have a kind of double government: their King presides in all hunting-matches, military affairs, and public or private games, and punishes any delinquent that offends in any particular respecting

specting his department; as the Queen does those who are culpable in any article of domestic concern, over which she presides: but it is very remarkable, the King and Queen are never suffered to be man and wife; but for what reason, none of our people could possibly learn.

It was falsely suggested in the late accounts, that the women laid no claim to continence, but were addicted to promiscuous commerce: but such assertions are entirely groundless, for they are remarkably chaste, and seldom or never known to offend against the conjugal restrictions, unless some sudden accident happens at the critical time, which, as they are very

superstitious, influences their conduct; for they look upon any occurrence which seems to favour him who is trying to persuade them out of their virtue as a miracle, and fancy Snouteye their deity commands their compliance. This occasioned the misconstruction of the people of the D — man of war, with regard to one of the Georgonian women. The story is this :

When several of the natives were on board the D —, one of the women seemed particularly fond of an officer belonging to the ship; but her husband being present, and seeming too jealous to be sufficiently inattentive to their proceedings

ceedings for her to obtain her wish, she very artfully went and cut away her husband's canoe, and then came and informed him of the accident, who precipitately left her, to recover his boat ; by the means of which, she found an opportunity to enjoy what she desired.

But the truth is, the officer appeared rather too fond of the woman, who, being troubled to see her husband uneasy at his behaviour, intended to go and stay in the canoe till her husband was ready to return ; but, finding the boat had just broken its bark-security by its motion, she in a fright told her husband, who ran to regain his canoe (the greatest part of his riches); and the wife in the mean

D 4

time,

time, urged by traditional superstition, submitted to what no persuasion could have effected.

They have a very particular method of courting. The agreement is made between the parents. As soon as the young people are acquainted with it, the damsel cuts a stick, about a yard in length, from a particular tree dedicated to the deity Snouteye ; and, after having braided some of her hair round it in a curious manner, sends it by her father to her intended bridegroom, who buries it in the ground for the space of three days ; then, taking it up, he goes to visit his mistress. As soon as she perceives him, she runs to meet him with a seeming extasy ; and, kneeling

kneeling before him, places his right-foot upon her head, with which he does her the favour to spurn her to the ground. When she gets up, he drives her before him to the tree from whence the stick was cut; and, after binding her arms round the trunk of it, beats her for a considerable time, in a most unmerciful manner; demanding of her, in the breathing intervals, “whether she will “promise to be obedient, if he should “admit her to the honour of breeding “for him?”

When she has several times given a faithful promise of obedience, and he has sufficiently exercised himself, he unties her, and drives her home again to

her father; and, if he has beat her in such a manner as to disable her for a month or six weeks, it is prognosticated that he will make a most excellent husband.

When the day appointed for the nuptial ceremony arrives, the bride and bridegroom are bound fast together, back to back, with cords made of the bark of trees, and then thrown into the sea, where they are very handsomely ducked till they are almost dead, to the great diversion of their relations and friends.

When they have sufficiently recovered themselves, two cudgels are brought to them, and one presented to each: the
bride-

bridegroom retains his ; but the bride delivers up hers to the priest, who must either promise to lay the first night with the bride, or immediately to make use of the cudgel in his own defence against the bridegroom ; and the priest very often chuses to be well drubbed, rather than execute a commission which custom and prejudice has taught him to look upon with horror. So different are people, in different parts of the world, in their manner of thinking upon the same subject !

After marriage, if the women give their tongues too much liberty, and do not keep them quiet immediately upon the husband's holding up his little finger, for the first offence the tongue is slit,

and for the second, clipped. A great number of those who have been punished in this manner are to be seen; for the women in this island are not inclined to taciturnity any more than those of other parts of the world.

While the ship lay at this place, Mr. Wood, one of the young gentlemen who was a volunteer in the expedition, fell accidentally overboard. He was with some difficulty taken up senseless. Several were assiduously employed in trying to recover him; and among the rest Mr. Wilson, who, unbuttoning his waistcoat, and opening his shirt-collar in order to

[give

give him air, to his great amazement perceived it was a woman.

Upon the recovery of her senses, the lady found that her sex had been discovered: she blushed exceedingly, and begged to be conveyed to her own cabin, where she desired to be left alone.

When this discovery was made, the Captain was on shore; but, returning soon after, he was informed of the affair: he had scarce received this intelligence, when Mr. Smith was brought on board in a languishing condition, having received a dangerous wound in the right-side with an arrow, from a Georgonian who thought him rather to free with his wife.

wife. Upon the surgeon's opening his cloaths in order to dress the wound, he was no less amazed than Mr. Wilson had been, upon finding his patient likewise to be of the softer sex. The affair was immediately made known to the Captain, who cried, "Ods my life! I think I must have the whole ship's crew over-hauled, to know which are men, and which are women!"

The next day, the youngest lady being quite recovered, and the eldest able to sit up, the Captain intreated them to relate the occasion of their metamorphosis, if they had no particular reason to conceal it.

The

The youngest immediately gave them the satisfaction they desired, as follows :

“ My name is Hammond: my father
“ is a wealthy merchant of Plymouth,
“ in Devonshire, where I was born. Se-
“ veral young gentlemen of the place
“ paid their addresses to me; but none
“ could make the least impresson on my
“ heart.

“ I had not the least conception
“ of love, and fancied the ridiculous ac-
“ tions it caused many of my acquaint-
“ tances to commit, proceeded from some
“ defect in their understandings.

“ These

“ These were my thoughts, till the
“ ship we are in came into our harbour.
“ The first person who ever inspired me
“ with the soft passion was that lady,
“ whom I then took to be a young gen-
“ tleman. So far was my reason blinded
“ by my inclination, that I determined to
“ make a declaration of my passion. I
“ was well assured, that I could not pre-
“ vail upon myself to throw off the de-
“ corum incumbent on my sex so far as
“ to do it verbally : therefore I resolved
“ to communicate my sentiments by let-
“ ter. I sat down, I believe, an hun-
“ dred times, to write, without being
“ able to satisfy myself with what I had
“ written : I blotted out, interlined, ad-
“ ded,

“ded, and omitted, continually; and at
“last discovered, that I should be no
“better able to pen my thoughts than
“to speak them.

“At length, this absurd project came
“into my head; which I accomplished
“by deluding one of my suitors whom
“I disliked more than the rest. I pro-
“mised to give him my hand in mar-
“riage, if he would comply with one re-
“quest which I should make of him.
“He swore to perform whatever I de-
“sired. I told him, as I found an insur-
“mountable inclination to travel, that
“he must promise to let me (in his com-
“pany) make a tour through the most
remark-

“ remarkable places in Europe during
“ the first year of our marriage, and that
“ we should begin our journey the very
“ day after the ceremony was performed;
“ but, that I might gratify my curiosity
“ with more freedom than custom permitted to my sex, I would chuse to
“ travel in man’s apparel.

“ As the line of my lover’s understanding was not very long, he did not perceive the impropriety of such a project; but readily swore to acquiesce in whatever I thought proper to propose. Thus I procured a chest of every article proper for a man to appear in, and then eloped from my father’s

“ ther’s

“ther’s house, in the middle of the
“night, with my lover.

“We proceeded with the utmost ex-
“pediton towards London ; but at
“Winchester I pretended to be taken
“ill, and persuaded my lover to leave
“me to the care of the landlady, while
“he proceeded to London to procure a
“licence.

“As soon as he was departed, I took
“a post-chaise and set off for Portf-
“mouth, at which place I knew your
“ship would be, as it had sailed for that
“port some time before I left my father’s
“house.

68 MEMOIRS OF

"house. You may remember, Captain
 "Gayton, that you easily admitted me
 "as a volunteer passenger in the expe-
 "dition. When I had been a few weeks
 "on board, I found I had taken a very
 "wrong step; for, by trying to appear
 "amiable in the character of a man, in-
 "stead of inspiring love, I was only
 "likely to create esteem. Thus was I
 "in a very critical perplexity, till my
 "falling into the sea, when I imagined
 "the discovery of my sex might bring
 "me great satisfaction, without offending
 "my delicacy, if I may be allowed to
 "use that word after the lengths I have
 "run. The accident which happened
 "to that lady, soon made me perceive
 "the vanity of my expectations: but,
 "however, though I was disappointed
 "of

“ of her love, I hope to obtain her friend-
“ ship, and the good opinion of every
“ one present; for, though I have acted
“ without discretion, I have not been cri-
“ minal, even in thought.”

Miss Hammond here concluded her narrative; and the Captain told her, “ he
“ liked her better, now he found she was a
“ woman, than when she appeared as a
“ man: for,” added he, smiling, “ tho’
“ I allow you to be a spirited girl, yet
“ you was but a sneaking young fellow.”

This put all the company into a good
humour; and the other lady found she
could not with propriety withhold the
parti-

particulars concerning herself from their knowledge. She therefore gave this account of herself, without any farther intreaties :

“ My father, whose name was Lloyd,
“ possessed an estate of about twelve hundred a year. My mother died when I
“ was so very young, that I don’t remember to have had one ; but my father’s
“ care and tenderness never gave me occasion to regret her loss.

“ Our usual residence was Shrewsbury,
“ where my father employed all his time
“ in cultivating my mind ; but he found
“ me in every respect so very different
“ from

“ from all the women that had ever fallen
“ under his notice, that he was puzzled
“ in what manner to act: he had too
“ much good sense to imagine he could
“ eradicate any strong propensity im-
“ bibed from nature; but, at the same
“ time, thought it very possible to turn
“ the stream of inclination into another
“ channel, and divert its course from that
“ which would lead to the greatest absur-
“ dities.

“ Many women have given uncom-
“ mon proofs of courage; but those proofs
“ have generally arisen from the sudden
“ impulse of some violent passion; or,
“ their minds being irritated by the in-
“ fluence

“fluence of inclination, they are heroic
“for a moment, and then sink into their
“natural timidity: but how few females
“are constitutionally brave or courage-
“ous from reflection!

“I was born with a most intrepid
“soul; and contemplation, joined to ex-
“perience, instead of damping my spi-
“rit, only served to increase it.

“I regretted being born of the softer
“sex, whose souls I could not persuade
“myself to think were half formed.

“I disdained the gaudy trappings and
“pageantry of shew which engage the
“attention

“ attention of the female world : I loved
“ to be simply neat ; but despised equally
“ the superbness of ostentation, and the
“ elegance of unaffected gaiety.

“ The small talk of a tea-table was
“ my aversion ; but the solidity of a
“ manly conversation enchanted me.

“ I delighted in reading the best hi-
“ storians or military biographers ; but
“ lost my patience at the insipidity of ro-
“ mances and novels, particularly mo-
“ dern novels ; for the authors of these
“ productions, wanting to bring forth
“ something new, and being sensible that

“ nature had already been very nearly
“ exhausted, fancied they could only lay
“ claim to novelty by being unnatural :
“ in pursuance of which vain imagina-
“ tions, they have made the press groan
“ with so much *sentimental insipidity* and
“ *truly delicate nonsense*, that a person
“ ought to be as stupid as the writer, who
“ could have patience to read one of
“ these pieces. Without considering
“ the difference of genius, education, tem-
“ perature, and disposition, all their he-
“ roes stamp, frown, complain, intreat,
“ execrate, and in every other particular
“ act exactly in the same manner, under
“ the influence of the same passion ; and
“ all their heroines blush, faint, scream,
“ exert themselves, act with sincerity, or
“ I “ dissem-

“ dissemble, upon the very same occasion.
“ Thus, though they deviate from the
“ path of propriety, and quit nature for
“ absurdity, yet there is such a sameness
“ in their absurdities, as plainly evinces
“ their dearth of invention.

“ Upon reading, I did not wish to imi-
“ tate a Clarissa or a Sophia Western in any
“ thing but virtue or benevolence; nor
“ could I admire the domestic heroism
“ of a Tom Jones or a Lovelace. To me
“ there was something effeminate in the
“ man who would, even upon a *punctilio*
“ of false honour, draw his sword in vin-
“ dication of a bad action, or through a
“ meer piece of gallantry.

“ Not that my admiration was placed
“ on the lawless conqueror : Alexander the
“ Great, crowned with victorious wreaths,
“ and drawn in his triumphant car, with
“ vassal kings attending in his train, al-
“ ways to me appeared a splendid robber:
“ Julius Cæsar has fewer dark shades to
“ obscure his character, but is far from
“ being an hero of mine.

“ Scanderberg, the Czar Peter, Ta-
“ merlane the Great, Alfred, and his late
“ Majesty King George the Second the
“ Father of his People, who warred with
“ the passions of mankind, or, when they
“ drew the sword, conquered but to save,
“ were

“ were the heroes of my warmest admi-
“ ration.

“ These were the heroes that excelled
“ all the champions of romance; as Queen
“ Philippa, consort to Edward the Third,
“ and Queen Elizabeth, did all the he-
“ roines of the most hyperbolical imagi-
“ nation : which proves that simple truth
“ and unadorned nature always appear
“ more amiable to the unprejudiced eye,
“ than fictitious embellishments and la-
“ boured art.

“ My father, when I arrived at the age
“ of sixteen, perceived that all his endea-
“ vours were in vain to sink me down to

“ the affectation of my sex, or to soften
“ me into that effeminacy which some,
“ to preserve it from ridicule, have
“ thought proper to term *delicacy*. How-
“ ever, he was not very solicitous to *infan-*
“ *tize* me, as he found I possessed a heart
“ replete with real tenderness, and which
“ could keenly feel for the actual distresses
“ of my fellow-creatures.

“ Thus we passed our time in tolerable
“ good-humour with each other till his
“ death, which happened in my seven-
“ teenth year, when I went to reside with
“ an uncle and aunt, whom my father
“ had left joint-executors of his will, and
“ guardians to me : they were very good
“ fort

“ sort of people, and never strove to cross
“ me in my studies or pursuits.

“ In the neighbourhood lived a Mr.
“ Dimple, who was a fribble in the
“ strictest sense of the word. I shall de-
“ scribe him, as an architect builds, from
“ the bottom upwards.

“ His feet were very long and narrow ;
“ he therefore fancied them excessive
“ genteel, and would have thought him-
“ self guilty of an unpardonable crime
“ had he in the least neglected them ;
“ they were therefore kept in constant
“ repair by an operator for the corns,
“ who received a considerable stipend for
“ that purpose ; and decorated by a pair

“ of the neatest japanned pumps that
“ eyes ever beheld, whose shining sur-
“ faces reflected any object as clearly as
“ the finest mirror : thus he could scru-
“ tinize one end of himself by the help
“ of the other, and adjust his head by
“ the assistance of his feet.

“ His legs, which appeared like two
“ parallel lines, and were as small in the
“ middle as at either end, were greatly
“ improved in their appearance by a pair
“ of artificial calves, neatly padded on
“ the inside of a pair of the finest silk
“ stockings that could be procured, that
“ delighted the eye with all the colours
“ of the rainbow, proving the elegance
“ of

“ of his taste, and demonstrating the va-
“ riegated brilliancy of his fancy.

“ He wore a suit of white cloaths,
“ richly embroidered with silver, and cut
“ out in the very immensity of the fashion.

“ A pair of ruffles, as thin and light as
“ a cobweb, rendered fashionably dingy
“ with the lees of tobacco, and whose fine
“ interwoven threads seemed as intricate as
“ the mystic dance of Lucretius’s atoms,
“ shaded a pair of small hands, graced
“ with the most beautiful taper fingers,
“ and *refulgently* whitened with almond-
“ powder and other ingenious prepa-
“ rations.

“ Between the upper part of his breast
“ and his chin, was a magazine of muslin,
“ formed into an immense puffed stock;
“ above which appeared, clad in *cosmetic*
“ *garb*, the most unmeaning face that
“ ever was seen elevated above the shoul-
“ ders of one of those two-legged ani-
“ mals commonly termed rational crea-
“ tures.

“ A load of hair, formed into curls on
“ each side of his head, hid his ears, and
“ eclipsed great part of his cheeks. A
“ small rose dangled carelessly behind;
“ while a pair of wings, conspicuous on
“ his forehead, indicated the frequent
“ flights of his fancy; though some have
“ insisted,

“ insisted, that his imagination must be
“ extremely heavy, to require such mon-
“ strous wings to elevate it.

“ To crown the piece, exalted too far
“ above his forehead to be able to touch
“ it, his hat was seen, whose brim was in
“ eclipse, and seemed by its narrowness
“ like a parish-boy’s cap ; but a flaming
“ button of vast circumference glared
“ like the sun, and a wide-spreading
“ spangled loop seemed to beholders like
“ Saturn’s ring.

“ Add to this description, the dazzling
“ brilliant that adorned the little finger
“ of his right-hand, and the splendid

“harmless ornament that decked his
“thigh, you have the compleat portrait
“of a reptile, who was formed by nature
“to be my aversion.

“After my description of his person
“and dress, I don’t imagine any one will
“enquire about his understanding, be-
“cause it would be an absurdity to sup-
“pose he had any : however, as he was a
“meer machine, put into motion by folly
“and impertinence, I shall mention some
“of his movements.

“From the time of his rising from bed
“till the hour of dinner, he was always
“employed in decorating his person,
“studying

“ studying graces, and reading the *billet-*
“ *doux* he had written to himself, which
“ he afterwards threw carelessly about,
“ that his servants might find them, and
“ publish his amours.

“ After the momentous business of the
“ toilet, and *dinner bad in form*, if the
“ weather was fine, and no wind stirring
“ to discompose his hair, or discommode
“ his dress, he would take a ramble in
“ the Quarry, a beautiful shady walk near
“ Shrewsbury, on the banks of the Severn :
“ but whenever Boreas let the winds
“ out of prison, he likewise confined Mr.
“ Dimple ; so that his motions were as
“ regular as the packet-boats : for when
“ the weather was bad he received vi-
“ sits,

“ fits, but when it was fine he paid
“ visits.

“ When he received visits, he always
“ entertained the company with an ac-
“ count of his own importance, and the
“ immense pains he was at to procure the
“ quickest intelligence of scandal and
“ new fashions : when he paid visits, he
“ gleaned at one table a sufficient quantity
“ of calumny by wholesale, to retail at
“ half a dozen others.

“ Near the Forehead abbey a Mr. Soft-
“ palm lived, who was an inseparable
“ companion and humble imitator of
“ Mr. Dimple : they were vouchers for
“ each other's fame ; but with this differ-
“ ence,

“ence, that Mr. Softpalm professed he
“believed Mr. Dimple to be *the very*
“*greatest genius in the univarsal world*; and
“Mr. Dimple would say in a careless
“manner, that he thought Mr. Softpalm
“*a veery pretty fellow, and really conceived*
“*he should be able to make somewhat of him*
“*in a serus of time.* Thus you see a su-
“periority on the part of Mr. Dimple
“was acknowledged by Mr. Softpalm.

“I very frequently dressed myself in
“man’s apparel, and issued privately
“forth to a coffee-house or tavern, in or-
“der to converse with greater freedom
“than I could in the habit of my own sex
“with the lords of the creation. In one
“of these excursions, I accidentally hap-
“pened to sit in the very next seat to that
“employed

“employed by Messieurs Dimple and
“Softpalm.

“As Mr. Dimple, by having the liberty
“to visit at my uncle’s, had lately given
“me to understand that he had a very
“particular *tendre* for me, though he had
“not formally declared himself my lover,
“I was curious to know if he could pos-
“sibly be as ridiculous in conversing with
“his own sex, as he was in his devoirs to
“me; when I was entertained with the
“following dialogue, which I perfectly
“remember, and will repeat for the di-
“version of the company present.

DIMPLE.

“Hem! pray, friend Softpalm, do
“you know any thing of Miss Lloyd?”

SOFT-

SOFTPALM.

“ I have seen her : but I can't say that
“ she is of my particular *parties*, or agree-
“ able to my *gout*.”

DIMPLE.

“ Oh ! you'd expire with pleasure to
“ be in her company—her *air* and *pensées*
“ are so replete with *ridicule*, that may
“ I be *petrified* to *annihilation* if I am not.
“ ready to

“ Die with some sudden extazy of joy,
“ as little Alec Pope says, whenever I see
“ the *hawk-ard* thing.”

SOFT-

SOFTPALM.

“ I should be eternally obliged to you,
 “ to introduce me to the *bruteffe*, that we
 “ may participate of the sublime raptures
 “ which her *drollesse* must excite—hem !”

DIMPLE.

“ I will engage my reputation to intro-
 “ duce you ; for the old people perfectly
 “ adore me, for my *condescending humilia-*
 “ *tion* in honouring them with my com-
 “ pany. Oh ! we shall enjoy the scene *im-*
 “ *mensely*—he !—he !—he !—-I can’t for-
 “ bear smiling at the thoughts of the
 “ *crater.*

“ *crater*. — Wou’d you think it, because
“ I have, *pour passer le tems, badinéed* a
“ little with her, and diverted myself with
“ her follies, she has conceived a great
“ *penchant* for my person, and fallen de-
“ sperately in love with me ! Hem ! poor
“ silly fool ! to fancy my *refined imagina-*
“ *tion* would accede to a *coal-ition* with her
“ *esprit barbare* ! Egad, the very image
“ *disorders* my whole fabric ; for the
“ *crater* has so *literaturified* her head, that
“ she has *positively brutified* her body.
“ Egad, Tommy, the ridiculous thing
“ fancies that madman Charles the
“ Twelfth of Sweden was a finer gentle-
“ man than Beau Fielding.”

SOFT-

SOFTPALM.

“ Ridiculous! But what can you expect from one so immensely irrational as to despise laced cloaths?”

DIMPLE.

“ Very true; and one day she was *hardé* enough foolishly to insist upon it, in contradiction to my agreements, that a gentleman had no manner of occasion for a *buswife* or pincushion, when I think them more useful than a sword.”

SOFTPALM.

“ Certainly ; for I must confess I can’t see the use of a sword, unless it be
“ worn

"worn for the sake of the knot which
"decorates the handle. Did you ever
"fight a duel, Jackey?"

DIMPLE.

"Oh! yes, several; but then I always
"take care to know my man."

SOFTPALM.

"To know your man?"

DIMPLE.

"Yes, certainly; otherwise a duel
"might really be dangerous: for some
"of your *fellers*, that don't fear death,
"have actually no manner of respect for
"us

“ us fine gentlemen in such affairs; so I
“ am always careful not to offend such
“ an one; or if, in despite of all my
“ care, a quarrel should happen, why I
“ beg his pardon, which prevents mis-
“ chief, and proves my politeness. But
“ when two of *us* have any slight differ-
“ ence, it should never be passed over
“ without a duel. The last duel I
“ fought was with Billy Niggle: we had
“ some words concerning Miss Fanny
“ Flaremuch; for he persisting to main-
“ tain that she squinted with her right
“ eye only, and I being as *positive* that
“ she squinted with both eyes, our alter-
“ cation lasted till we *resolved* to decide
“ it by combat. We went home to pre-
“ pare accordingly; and then meeting
“ in

“ in the Quarry —hem ! — we drew
“ our----foils----when I disarmed him at
“ the second pass----though Billy don’t
“ fence amiss ; but it was my fortune to
“ be conqueror. I immediately posted
“ away with the news to Miss Fiaremuch,
“ who called me her hero, and that very
“ night yielded up her virtue to my em-
“ braces : but soon

“ The morn and cold indiff’rence
“ came ;

“ for, egad, I was tired of her the next
“ day.”

SOFTPALM.

“ He !---he !---he !----hem ! you’re a
“ cruel conqueror, Jackey.”

DIMPLE.

DIMPLE.

“ Why ay ! so the fond fools tell me ;
“ but I should deserve the imputation of
“ cruelty much more, if, for the sake of
“ being constant to one, I should make a
“ thousand poor languishing *cratures* un-
“ happy. However, the day I left Miss
“ Flaremuch, I was punished for my infi-
“ delity ; for I sprained my ancle in so
“ violent a manner, that it pained me al-
“ most seven minutes : however, to make
“ me amends, in two days time Miss
“ Lloyd and I understood each other.”

SOFTPALM.

“ What ! you’ve had her too ?”

DIIMPLE.

DIMPLE.

“ O yes. The poor doating fool was
“ languishing for me day and night. I
“ pitied her ; and at length my *good-nater*
“ (of which I have a large share) pre-
“ vailed over my delicacy, and I conde-
“ scended to gratify her desires ; which
“ made her so happy, that the expres-
“ sions of her gratitude and thankfulness
“ were quite fulsome, and really hurt
“ my modesty a great deal.”



—— “ I could now no longer forbear ;
“ but, interrupting the conversation,
“ begged to speak a word or two with
“ Mr. Dimple.

“ He (not knowing me) seemed surprised, and would have retired with me : but I told him my business required no secrecy. He looked very blank upon observing my countenance, into which I had strained all the terror I possibly could.

“ Mr. Dimple, I flatter myself your politeness [*here he brightened up a little*] will excuse my impertinent curiosity, in having taken the liberty to listen to your private tête à tête with your friend, since I was actuated by an ardent desire to know how so fine a gentleman [*here his fear seemed entirely dissipated*] would

“ would acquit himself in his convivial
“ hours of conversation : but great was
“ my surprize, to hear you traduce the
“ character of two ladies of my acquaint-
“ ance.”

“ Sir, I—I—”

“ No interruption, good Sir——Miss
“ Flaremuch, whom I believe you have
“ villainously belied, though indiscreet,
“ I can venture to affirm, is not criminal;
“ and Miss Lloyd, whose character no
“ one ever ventured to impeach before,
“ is a lady whom I respect as much as I
“ do myself. You must therefore either
F 2 “ deny

“ deny your assertions, and confess your-
“ self a base calumniator, or give me im-
“ mediately the satisfaction of a gentle-
“ man.

“ I perceived he was very much ter-
“ rified : but he strove to hide it; and
“ attempted to screw his features into a
“ forced smile, which gave his counte-
“ nance an appearance so tristfully comic,
“ that it was with some difficulty I pre-
“ served the severity of my looks.

“ He!—he!—he!—why, Sir, excuse
“ my risibility; but I can't refrain smiling
“ at the success of my plot. Why the
“ whole

“ whole affair was *confarted* in a whisper,
“ only out of a little harmless mirth, just
“ to nettle you a little—~~wan’t~~ it,
“ Tommy?”

“ Yes, indeed it was: Jackey speaks
“ nothing but the truth.”

“ Ay, so I *tells* you (you see I’m
“ above telling a lye to any body): as
“ soon as you *comes* in, what *does me* I do,
“ but whisper friend Softpalm here—
“ *didn’t* I, Tommy?”

“ Yes, you did, *’pon honour.*”

“ Ay! so I say : you see I scorn a
“ lye. But, as I was saying, as soon as
“ you comes in, I *whispers me* Tommy
“ here, as he has told you——’Gad’s
“ curse, says I, here’s a suitor of Miss
“ Lloyd’s!——suppose we have a little
“ *drollesse* with him : — With all my
“ heart, says Tommy. — *Didn’t* you,
“ Tommy ?”

“ Indeed I did.”

“ Very well : you see I scorn a lye.
“ And so, what *does* I do, but frame a
“ tale about Miss Lloyd, and talked
“ about Miss Flaremuch, only to make
“ you

“ you think our discourse was not meant
 “ to you, that it might take the more ef-
 “ fect. I intended to beg your pardon
 “ afterwards, and court your acquaint-
 “ ance. I have told you nothing but
 “ truth; nothing else, *'pon honour*. Have
 “ I, Tommy?”

“ You have not, as I hope to be ad-
 “ mired.”

“ Nothing but a joke, Sir——nothing
 “ else, indeed. I hope you won't be of-
 “ fended at a little harmless raillery.”

“ What, then, you've seen me be-
 “ fore?”

“ Oh, dear Sir ! a hundred times : I
“ admire your conversation very much.
“ It was but last Tuesday that I intreated
“ Miss Lloyd to introduce me to your
“ acquaintance. I mentioned my re-
“ questing such a favour to my friend
“ here——*didn't* I, Tommy ? ”

“ Certainly you did.”

“ I did not think it worth while to
“ put him to the trouble of framing any
“ more excuses : but those he had al-
“ ready made put me in mind of Queen
“ Elizabeth, who used to make this ob-
“ servation, *That anger made dull men*
“ *witty,*

" *witty, but kept them poor* : so I imagined
" from this affair, *that fear makes fools*
" *witty, but keeps them in a whole skin.*
" However, in despite of this maxim,
" I resolved they should not go scot-free.
" I soon found I was not one of those
" they chose to encounter sword in hand :
" I therefore caned them both very hear-
" tily, which they bore with a Christian
" resignation and philosophical patience,
" suffering more through cowardice,
" than a brave man would in his defence.
" When I had, as I thought, disciplined
" them sufficiently, I returned home,
" where I found several persons upon a
" visit at my uncle's, among whom was
" Miss Flaremuch. I changed my dress,
" and, entering the parlour, for the first

“ time informed the company of my fre-
“ quent excursions in man’s apparel, for
“ none but my woman ever before knew
“ of my disguising myself; and told them
“ all the particulars of my late adven-
“ ture, which occasioned a great deal of
“ diversion : and I received a very polite
“ compliment from Miss Flaremuch, for
“ so justly chastizing a coxcomb whom
“ she despised.

“ The laugh at the expence of Messieurs
“ Dimple and Softpalm was scarcely
“ over, when the two redoubtable heroes
“ were announced by the servant. We
“ could not imagine the intention of
“ their visit; but I begged the company
“ to be silent with regard to to the late
“ adven-

"adventure with which I had been en-
 "tertaining them, as I had no manner of
 "doubt but we should have another di-
 "verting scene.

"They entered the room with as much
 "unconcern as if nothing had happened,
 "and I could perceive were secretly plu-
 "ming themselves upon some stratagem
 "which employed their imaginations.----
 "After the usual ceremonies; and some
 "trifling remarks on common-place to-
 "pics, Mr. Dimple began to open his
 "wise scheme, by addressing myself and
 "Miss Flaremuch in this manner :

F 6

"Hem!

“ Hem ! Indeed, ladies, you are much
“ beholden to me, and my friend here,
“ for vindicating your reputations : I
“ speak in particular to Miss Lloyd and
“ Miss Flaremuch. Indeed, ladies, I
“ declare nothing but the truth, as Mr.
“ Softpalm here can testify. Do I,
“ Tommy ?”

“ Nothing else, *'pon honour.*”

“ No, ladies, frown me to perdition,
“ if I would not *annihilate* myself, before
“ I'd be guilty of a falsehood——no——
“ *Verit-afs* is my motto. But, as I was
“ saying, myself, and Mr. Softpalm here,
“ chanced

“ chanced to over-hear a couple of scoun-
“ drels at a certain coffee-house; the-
“ mention of the names of Miss Flare-
“ much and Miss Lloyd made us atten-
“ tive to their discourse; we could do no-
“ less, you know, ladies: but the infam-
“ ous brutes vilified you both, ladies,
“ in such a scandalous, such an atrocious
“ manner, that we lost all patience; and,
“ after making them deny their words,
“ we can’d ’em both very heartily. *Didn’t*
“ we, Tommy?”

“ We did, sink me.”

“ We did, indeed; for I scorn a false-
“ hood, and obliged them to ask our par-
“ dons very submissively.”

“ *Your*

THE MEMOIRS OF

"Your pardons? says I---- Why, by
"your own account, they had not of-
"fended you, but us."

"Very true, Ma'am; but we, esteem-
"ing ourselves your *pleny-pot-in-cherries*,
"could do no otherwise than act as *am-*
"bassadors; and, after granting the infa-
"mous rascals a pardon, we came to you
"to have the treaty ratified."

"And you have not invented this
"affair, through your wonted politeness,
"to entertain the company? We may
"venture to depend upon it as a fact?"

"Oh!

“ Oh ! an absolute fact, Madam ; brother Softpalm, here, will vouch for my veracity. What say you, Tommy ? ”

“ Mr. Dimple has told you nothing, ladies, but what you may very well venture to believe : he is incapable of uttering a falsehood. ”

“ So it seems, says my uncle. But pray did you cane those scoundrels you accidentally over-heard, before or after you yourselves were caned for the same crime, by being likewise accidentally over-heard ? ”

“ Sir,

"Sir, you are pleased to be merry."

"Indeed I am very merry : the detection of your cowardice and effrontery can excite nothing but mirth."

"*Pon honour*, Sir, you are extremely diverting :—but I really have not the pleasure of comprehending your meaning. Do you understand the gentleman, Tommy?"

"—— Not in the least, as I hope for perdition: I mean, as I hope for salvation."

"Why

“ Why then, if you do not compre-
“ hend me, gentlemen, I must first pay
“ you a compliment which you well de-
“ serve, particularly Mr. Dimple; and
“ afterwards explain my meaning. If
“ those who excel deserve applause, you
“ certainly, for your unparalleled impu-
“ dence, merit the greatest praises. But
“ now, to enter upon my explanation,
“ and clear up all mysteries:—You must
“ know my niece here, who, as you say,
“ gentlemen, *has so far* LITERATURIFIED
“ *her mind, that she has quite* BRUTIFIED
“ *her body*, is very whimsically inclined.
“ This morning a whim took her, to
“ dress herself in man’s apparel, in which
“ disguise she repaired to ——— coffee-
“ house,

“house, where I find another whim made
“her listen to your conversation ; which
“unluckily occasioned her to be seized
“with a still more active whim, that
“caused her to cane you both very hear-
“tily, and has brought on your disgrace.
“What say you to this, gentlemen?”

“Mr. Softpalm looked very blank
“upon this matter ; but Mr. Dimple
“was not so easily put out of humour
“with himself. After some hesitation,
“he broke out——

“He! he! he! excuse me, ladies and
“gentlemen ; gentlemen and ladies, ex-
“cuse me. May *barbarism* unrefine me,
“if

“ if I don’t glory in the success of my
“ plot. Why we knew Miss Lloyd the
“ moment she entered the coffee-room.
“ *Didn’t we, Tommy ?*”

“ Yes—yes—we did—we did ;”
[*in great confusion.*]

“ I don’t know how it was possible you
“ should imagine we could mistake you,
“ Miss. No eclipse can entirely darken
“ the sun.”

“ I am afraid you are but badly versed
“ in astronomy, Sir.”

“ As for astronomy, Ma’am, I don’t
“ trouble my head about it ; but a simile

“ is

“ is a simile, and truth is truth — and
“ ——— and ——— and so we both knew you
“ immediately, as friend Softpalm has
“ informed you ; and thought, as you
“ had disguised your person for diversion,
“ that we had a right to disguise our sen-
“ timents for diversion ; and so we re-
“ solved to nettle you at first, by calum-
“ niating yourself and Miss Flaremuch,
“ that we might afterwards pay you the
“ greater compliment in denying what
“ we had said : but you were so very fu-
“ rious at last, that there was no explain-
“ ing the affair to you ; for you swinged
“ us incessantly, without giving us leave
“ to speak ; which when we found you
“ were bent upon, we bore with the
“ greatest courage and discretion, where-
“ by

“by you might perceive our profound
“respect to you, and submission to your
“pleasure : but I hope now we shall
“share the thanks we really deserve.”

“What! then you really knew me at
“first?”

“Instantly, Ma’am ; you know Love
“has piercing eyes.”

“I thought Love was blind!”

“Ay! Ma’am ; I’ll grant you, Love
“was blind formerly ; but time, having
“proved

“proved an oculist, has cleared his eye-
 “fight.”

“Very well, Mr. Dimple; you rea-
 “son very consequentially: but if I
 “should not be impertinent——

“Nothing can be impertinent from
 “Miss Lloyd” [*bowing*].

“Sir, your humble servant [*bowing*
 “in return]. But pray, had you not
 “known me, or had it been another per-
 “son, how would you have acted upon
 “receiving such treatment?”

“Why,

“Why, Ma’am, my sword should have
“done me the justice that it has already
“done me in sixteen different duels,
“wherein I have come off conqueror.
“Tommy Softpalm here was my second
“in three. *Wan’t* you, Tommy?”

“Yes, by all that’s delicate.”

“You see that I really do scorn a false-
“hood. Yes, Ma’am; that man who
“had traduced either you or Miss Flare-
“much had much better have met a
“living lion. His life must have been
“a forfeit to his temerity.”

“Why

“ Why then, Mr. Dimple, you have
“ an opportunity of shewing your cou-
“ rage, and vindicating my reputa-
“ tion; for my uncle, in what he said,
“ was joking you all the time; the real
“ person who asserts that he caned you
“ both at the coffee-house being near at
“ hand, and ready to be produced in a
“ few minutes.”

“ Why then, Ma'am, I will but just
“ answer an appointment that is indis-
“ pensable, and return in a quarter of an
“ hour to chastise the rascal. Pray,
“ Ma'am, decoy the scoundrel hither, and
“ keep him till I return. I'll make the
“ villain

Lima (of which there are already so many descriptions published, that I think it needless to describe it here), he frequently made excursions to the environs, and amused himself in traversing the verdant fields, and shady woods; for expanded rural scenes could not fail of pleasing one who had so much cause to dislike the circumscribed bowels of a floating fabric.

In one of those excursions he was invited, by the romantic situation of a beautiful hill, to gain its summit. He ascended accordingly, and thought his labour was sufficiently repaid by the lovely landscape which captivated his view. As he was changing his situation,

to increase the variety of his prospect, the ground gave way beneath his feet; and he sunk, to his great surprize, gradually, for a considerable time, without receiving any hurt, till he found himself in a large hall, or rather kitchen, to which the hole through which he had descended seemed to be the chimney, for there was an appearance of a fire having been formerly made under it; and when he had recovered himself sufficiently to be able to reflect, he found himself covered with that kind of soot, which is produced by a wood fire.

He was happy to find himself so well, after so perilous a fall, but terribly uneasy concerning his situation; for though
this

this chimney had a sufficient declivity to prevent his receiving any detriment from his descent, yet it was too smooth and too perpendicular for him to reascend it with safety, especially as he had brushed off that foot in his fall, which might have assisted him to climb it, by securing his footing.

While he was in this dilemma, he recollected, that if the cavern had ever been inhabited, as he had great reason to suppose it had, its inhabitants would hardly go in and out through the chimney. He accordingly groped about, to seek for an entrance; but took care to make such particular remarks, as would enable him to find the chimney again, should

he fail of success in what he was seeking for.

He at last groped his way to a room with a lamp burning upon a table in the middle of it; upon the edge of which, a man reclined his head, seemingly asleep. As Mr. Wilson was neither fearful nor superstitious, he boldly advanced towards the table, with an intention to wake the sleeping person, in order to obtain some directions how to find his way out. He went to jog him accordingly; but, to his amazement, the man vanished from his touch; nor could he perceive, by the dim light of the lamp, any thing but a dusty kind of smoke in his room; which no sooner
4 subsided,

subsided, than he found the chair and floor beneath it covered with an infinite quantity of dry dust. He immediately conjectured, what afterwards appeared to be fact, that the person he had seen had been dead so long, that he was dried away into a dust, which, having neither air nor motion to molest it, had retained its primitive form, till his touch had caused the dissolution which appeared before him.

He was afraid to touch the lamp, lest it should go out in as sudden a manner as the man had been reduced to atoms; but, luckily having a piece of wax bougie in his pocket, he lighted it without extinguishing the lamp, and

H 3 searching

searching about found nothing in the place, but a large crucifix against the wall, and a small casket beneath its feet. He took up the casket, which was very heavy; but the lock baffled all his attempts to open it. At last, he imagined the person who had mouldered into dust might perhaps have died with the key in his pocket — he searched in the dust accordingly, and in a little time found it. When he opened the casket, he was surprized to behold a large quantity of jewels, of an immense value as he imagined, and a manuscript written in a language which he did not understand. He deposited both jewels and manuscript in his pockets, and left the casket where he found it. After a great
many

many turnings and windings, with his lighted bougie in his hand, he at last, to his great joy, discovered the entrance into this subterraneous cavern, and in a little time found himself upon a plain which he knew. He made the best of his way to Lima; but concealed his adventure, only saying, to account for his dirty appearance, that he had fallen into a pit where they burnt charcoal, but had happily received no manner of hurt.

Every thing being prepared for their departure, they soon after set sail for Jamaica; where they safely arrived, after a pleasant voyage, without meeting with any accident. Here Mr. Wilson

disposed of some of his jewels privately, for a considerable sum, with which he purchased all manner of necessaries, and such commodities as were proper for the market of London, whither he intended to repair with all possible expedition.

As Captain Gayton's affairs were likely to detain him at Jamaica for some considerable time, and the Captain of the Achilles had some business at Boston, whither he intended to go with all possible speed, Mr. Wilson, after taking a cordial leave of them all, embarked on board a merchantman for London, where he soon arrived in good health and spirits, and in a short time cleared his bill of lading, very much to his own
advantage

advantage and satisfaction. He made a liberal present to the merchant for whom he went out as supercargo. He had the greatest success in the disposal of his jewels; and, when he was a little settled, secured the most considerable part of his fortune in the public funds, as a certain dependence; and with the rest determined to hazard the precarious success of merchandizing.

With a kind of mediocrity in his manner of thinking, he resolved to indulge his passions as far as prudence would permit; designing to enter into the amusements of this metropolis, but still to suffer reason to direct and guide his pursuits. Thus, though inclination might some-

times break through the nicer rules of morality, it would always keep on the right side of decorum.

He frequently enquired after Volpone; but could only hear that he had married a young wife, with whom he lived upon very indifferent terms; without ever being able to gain any intelligence concerning the place of his residence.

One evening, as he was returning towards home, after passing a convivial afternoon with some select friends, he overtook a young lady, whose symmetry of person and agreeable movements attracted his notice. He accosted her

with

with that politeness which was habitual to him; and she returned it with some degree of vivacity. He pressed her to permit him to see her home; confessing his surprize, at finding a person of the appearance alone, and on foot, at that time in the evening.

She familiarly rejected him.

He repeated his solicitations with ardour.

She at last told him, with a smile,
"That there was but one way to engage
"her to comply with his request."

He entreated her to name it.

“You must,” says she, “become a
 “knight errant, and venture yourself
 “under my convoy, unknowing and
 “unknown.”

“Pray, Madam, be more explicit.”

“Will you consent to become a Cupid,
 “to oblige one who may find the means
 “to be grateful?”

“Still, Madam, you leave me in the
 “dark. What you desire is perfectly
 “enigmatical. I cannot possibly signify
 “my assent, before I comprehend the
 “request.”

“Then,

“ Then, Sir, it is this: you must
“ consent, like Cupid, to have a ban-
“ dage before your eyes, in order to con-
“ ceal from your knowledge the place
“ whither I shall conduct you. Nay, be
“ not surprized, no harm will happen
“ to you. I have some very particular
“ reasons for acting in such a manner.
“ But you are to use your own discre-
“ tion.”

Curiosity and caution, prudence and
passion, had now a terrible conflict in
the breast of Mr. Wilson; but at last the
flesh very fairly prevailed over the spirit,
and he implicitly acquiesced in the request
of

of the fair incognita; thinking, at the very worst, that she could have only a design upon his pocket; and he happened to have nothing then about him, but what he could very readily resign without regret.

She bound a silk handkerchief over his eyes; and, after leading him leisurely along for about a quarter of an hour, they entered a house, when she told him his journey was at an end.

After having restored him to sight, a female servant ushered him up stairs into an elegant dining-room.

He

He was charmed beyond expression, to find her, upon a nearer view, exceeding beautiful ; though at the same time he was strangely puzzled to account for her manner of acting.

An elegant supper was served up ; and afterwards the bottle contributed, with the unconstrained freedom of the lady, to banish every suspicion of danger from the breast of Mr. Wilson.

They retired to a chamber, which seemed purposely prepared ; where Mr. Wilson was blessed with all the raptures which an enjoyment unlawfully agreeable could give.

In

In the morning, the lady waked him very early; and told him, " he must be conducted to some considerable distance from the house in the same blindfolded manner he came to it the evening before."

He pressed her to let him know the reason for this conduct, and who she was. But she refused giving him that satisfaction, in so peremptory a manner, that he sacrificed his curiosity to his politeness, judging it imprudent to urge any thing farther on the subject.

After a melting embrace, and his giving a solemn promise not to attempt making

making any discoveries concerning her, they changed rings, and he took his leave; being conducted by the maid into a capital street within his knowledge, when she took the bandage from his eyes. He gave her five guineas, and a direction to carry to her lady, by which a letter would at any time find him; for he had yet some sanguine hopes of penetrating into this mystery in time, and again experiencing those extasies which were too delicious to be very easily forgotten.

Thus Mr. Wilson lived, aiming at the character of a moral libertine; never rendering a whole family unhappy, by taking advantage of the frailty of a weaker

weaker part; nor destroying the peace of a husband, by making culpable a wife. No virgin could mourn her ruin, and mingle curses against him with her tears. He would never

“Plant the dagger in the female
“breast:”

But, upon reflection,

“Freely thought he honestly might
“rove
“Through all the paths of habitable
“love.”

In fine, he was among his acquaintance termed the discreet libertine,
though

though they might with propriety have named him the voluptuous libertine; for he enjoyed the most libidinous pleasures in the truest sense of the word, without suffering any of the pain which attends hackney rakes.

Thus he appeared to have possessed a compleat system of libertinism.

About seven years after his adventure with the fair incognita, he received the following letter; which was given him by one of his own servants, who told him, the person that brought it did not wait for an answer:

“To

“ TO FRANCIS WILSON, Esq.

“ S I R,

“ **Y**OU will undoubtedly be sur-
“ prized to be addressed in this
“ manner by an unknown hand; but
“ something very particular occasions
“ you to receive this trouble. If you
“ have in your possession a ring, the
“ impresson a dove with an olive branch
“ in his mouth, and the motto,

“ The gods above

“ Send peace and love !

“ A person

“ A person would be happy in an hour’s
“ conversation with you, on a very im-
“ portant affair, who possesses a ring,
“ the impression of which is a sun with
“ this motto,

“ My flame is bright

“ As solar light !

“ Be expeditious ; for the case is
“ urgent.

“ INCOGNITA.

“ N. B. Enquire for Susan, at Mrs.
“ ———’s, in ——— Street, near Red
“ Lion Square.”

The

The first ring mentioned in the letter answered exactly to the description of that which he had formerly given to the fair unknown ; and the other corresponded with that he had received from her.

According to the address intimated, he repaired to — Street ; and, having found the house, was introduced by a female (whom he recognized to be the attendant of the before-mentioned lady) into a parlour. She left him for the space of ten minutes, and, returning, begged him to walk up stairs.

He ascended accordingly ; and, to his great surprize, was led into a room,
which

which appeared to be darkened on account of some sick person : he was confounded at the solemnity of the scene ; and the transition of his thoughts, from extatic sensuality to gloomy mortality, had very near deprived him of motion, when a feeble voice, which seemed to proceed from a bed at the farther end of the room, desired him to draw near ; and, when he had seated himself, began as follows :

“ I am the person to whom you
“ gave your ring about seven years
“ ago ; but, in order to account for my
“ behaviour at that time, it will be ne-
“ cessary to relate a few particular cir-
“ cumstances

“ circumstances of a prior date, which
 “ will elucidate the whole. My father
 “ was a gentleman of an independent
 “ fortune. He gave me a polite educa-
 “ tion, and was indeed both father and
 “ mother to me ; for I lost my other
 “ parent while an infant. When I was
 “ about nineteen years of age, my father
 “ unhappily engaged in a law-suit, which
 “ in a few terms deprived him of his es-
 “ tate, and me of my expected patrimo-
 “ ny. What I felt, is inconceivable ; for
 “ I was naturally ambitious.

“ An old gentleman, in his years of
 “ dotage, who had seen me and liked
 “ me, offered to marry me, without any
 “ money ; on condition that no such
 “ words

“ words as *Jointure* or *Settlement* should
“ be mentioned in the treaty : but every
“ thing left entirely to his own discretion
“ and generosity.

“ My father earnestly pressed me to
“ accept of so advantageous an offer.

“ Though the old gentleman himself
“ was no very tempting object, yet his
“ fortune to me had a world of charms :
“ and, as I had never felt any tender sen-
“ sations, it was no great difficulty to me
“ to sacrifice my delicacy to my ambi-
“ tion. In short, we were married ; but
“ no manner of settlement was made on
“ me.

“ About fix months after my nupti-
“ als, my father died ; and, to increafe
“ my uneafinefs, my husband grew pee-
“ vish to an excefs. I now found, to
“ my coft, that wealth could not procure
“ happinefs.

“ He continued his ill-humour for
“ above three years ; one great caufe of
“ which I found was, my not having
“ borne him a child ; for the impedi-
“ ment of his advanced age never once
“ entered his brain, when he declared,
“ — Let him die when he would, he
“ fhould leave all he was worth to an
“ hofpital, as I had not bleffed him with

“ an heir to enjoy it ; the hopes of which
“ happiness, he affirmed, was the sole
“ cause of his marrying me.

“ The dread of his speedy dissolution,
“ and the terrifying prospects of pover-
“ ty, which would in all probability en-
“ sue, kept my mind in continual anxi-
“ ety.

“ At last, I determined how to act ;
“ but shall not trouble you with the
“ arguments *pro* and *con*, which I made
“ use of to myself, before my resolution
“ was fixed.

“ A two days journey, which my
“ husband was obliged to make to
“ Windsor, gave me an opportunity of
“ putting into execution my design;
“ and your connection with me was the
“ result of my scheme. You may there-
“ fore perceive how necessary it was for
“ me to act with that precaution, which,
“ without doubt, very much surprized
“ you.

“ I soon after made my husband hap-
“ py, by informing him that I was
“ pregnant; and, at the expiration of
“ nine months, was delivered of a fine
“ boy; at which my husband was so
“ well

“ well pleased, as he did not in the least
 “ suspect but what it was his own, that
 “ he settled the bulk of his fortune on
 “ him, and a genteel annuity for life on
 “ me.

“ Two months after this, he was at-
 “ tacked by a fit of the gout in the
 “ stomach, which he was assured would
 “ carry him off. His mind seemed to
 “ labour under the the greatest terror
 “ imaginable; the agonies of which,
 “ in conjunction with his disease, be-
 “ reaved him of life; and he died in a
 “ fit of the most miserable despair.

“ I have employed myself ever since
“ in taking proper care of the child,
“ and with a maternal tenderness in-
“ specting his juvenile acquisitions.

“ I never expected that the peculiarity
“ of my case would be any plea in my
“ favour in the face of the Almighty;
“ but the unfeigned and sincere repen-
“ tance of a heart fraught with contri-
“ tion, I flatter myself, has obtained
“ that ablution for my crimes, with
“ which infinite Mercy washes away the
“ guilt of penitent sinners.

“ According

“ According to the direction which
“ you gave my woman, I took several
“ opportunities to enquire your charac-
“ ter; of which I had so favourable a
“ report, that I determined to make you
“ my sole executor and trustee, and
“ guardian to a child to whom you gave
“ being.

“ Being attacked with a fever, I thought
“ it expedient to send for you, and here
“ deliver to your care the papers relative
“ to my child's fortune, with the cre-
“ dentials of your authority over him,
“ ready drawn up, and filled; for I
“ took

“took care to enquire your christian
“name before I sent to you.”

Mr. Wilfon accepted the charge;
and found, to his infinite surprize, that the
dying lady had married no other than
his quondam guardian Volpone; and
the child to which he was father, by a
providential though criminal connexion,
had become possessor of the estate of
which himself had been villainously
deprived.

Thus, by the concurrence of several
uncommon circumstances, the true heir
attained the fortune of which his father
had been wronged; and the defrauder
was

was deservedly punished by an infidelity in his wife, for which it is hoped a sincere repentance has obtained a merciful remission.

Mrs. Volpone died in a few days after; and Mr. Wilson took his son under his own auspices and protection.

ADVER-

ADVERTISEMENT.

The manuscript, which Mr. Wilson found together with the jewels in the cave near Lima, is written in the Arabic tongue, and contains some very curious memoirs; which Mr. Wilson has been made acquainted with by the means of a translation executed by a learned gentleman of the university of Oxford; and he intends to publish it speedily, for the entertainment of the ingenious.

F I N I S.



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With a Variety of interesting Particulars, necessary
to be known by the HUSBANDMAN.